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Chinese immigrants are suffering in US

In recent years, the population of Chinese immigrants is increasing rapidly. By 2006, there are approximately 3.6 million Chinese people living in US. (“Chinese American” par.1) China towns keep growing in many states like New York and California. The increasing population of Chinese immigrants has caused some effects on American society and economy. The new coming Chinese immigrants bring their products into the American market, and also a totally different culture to US. However, it seems that the Chinese immigrants are not always welcomed in US. The attitudes toward Chinese immigrants are often negative, both in government and in public.

The US government shows a negative attitude towards Chinese immigrants. This attitude can be easily found in the immigration laws. In 1882, US Congress passed a law called Chinese Exclusion Act. The Act excluded Chinese labors from entering the US for ten years. Most of Chinese immigration to the United States were prohibited to (Anna Pegler Gordon "Chinese Exclusion, Photography, and the Development of U.S. Immigration Policy" 53). The reasons for passing that law were that Chinese labors were cheaper than white labors, which added a great pressure to the employment local people (Lowenberg, Cathy M. "Still a Community of Laborers." 11). Greene describes such law in his book, “Congress exercised this authority, denying the rights of citizenship to all Chinese immigrants” (Greene, Mary Frances. *Affidavit and Flyers from the Chinese Boycott Case. the Constitution Community: The Development of the Industrial United States (1870-1900)*. par.1). In other words, all Chinese workers were sent back to China by the US government at that time. This Act showed a negative attitude toward Chinese immigrants and the Chinese labors were not convinced by the reasons given by the government. Author Anna, Pegler Gordon also says that “the Chinese exclusion marked a new development in immigration policy as the first law to discriminate against a group of immigrants on the basis of race and class” (Anna 51). The US government judged Chinese by race and class, which was against human rights. The Chinese Exclusion Act showed a negative attitude in toward Chinese people. Chinese people were not highly respected in US at that period of time.

Although the Chinese Exclusion Act was canceled later, the U.S. government keeps restricting Chinese immigrants through legislation. Writer Anna Pegler Gordon says in her book: “In 1892, ten years after Chinese Exclusion Act, the new act known as the Geary Act was far harsher than the original exclusion law. “In addition to continuing exclusion, the Geary Act required that Chinese laborers register for certificates of residence proving their right to remain in the United States” Anna says in her book, “1893, the Geary Act was amended to extend Chinese registration for an additional six months” (Anna 53) In other words, the new act made it harder for Chinese labors to stay in America. This act only worked for Chinese labors, which showed a racial prejudice toward Chinese people. The immigration legislation is still strict towards Chinese people in recent years. In the year 1996, Verne Jervis, spokesperson at the U.S. INS, said that under current policy, “normal application by China of its family-planning program is not in and of itself persecution on account of political opinion” (Farrell, Elisabeth. "Illegal Chinese Immigrants Caught in Political Web." 70). Due to this policy, many Chinese illegal immigrants who lived with their families were ordered to pay $4,000, otherwise they will be sent into prison. (Farrell 70). The U.S. government’s policy regarding Chinese immigrants creates many limitations that make citizenship difficult.

Besides the negative attitude of US government, the public view of Chinese immigrants is also cold. Political differences are main causes of the cold feeling. It is well known that the Cold War between United States and Soviet Russia gave Americans a bad impression of communism. Chinese immigrants were not highly trusted by Americans because China is a Communist nation (“US Immigration Policy Toward the People's Republic of China." section. 3.1). This concept has lasted for a long time and it’s hard to change because Americans have a deep-rooted sense of antagonism towards Chinese immigrants. Paul Brewer has shown a basic concept of American that “American shave more positive opinions of, and a higher degree of trust in, countries with which they are primed to believe have similar foreign policy goals as the United States or with whom the United States might work cooperatively for mutual benefit” (Page etal. "How Americans Feel about Asian Countries and Why” 31). They believe their country is the best in the world. They have negative attitude toward other countries, especially the countries which have the opposite policy system, like China.

Moreover, the increasing population of Chinese immigrants causes some problem in US society, which increases American resistance to Chinese immigrants in public. Wolf Kevin Minthorne mentioned that Chinese immigrants were said “to be inassimilable, to cause unemployment, to be a drain on national fiscal resource” (Wolf, Kevin Minthorne. "Laws Harsh as Tigers: Chinese Immigrants and the Shaping of Modern Immigration Law." 630). Large amount of incoming Chinese labors broke the balance of native labor market in 1880s (Anna 53). It caused a fall in wages, and it also added pressure to the employment of local people, which made Americans upset. In addition, newly arriving Chinese immigrants also brought their culture with different communication styles and different diet, which are hard for Americans to accept. For example, Chinese were sometimes considered impolite because they like to speak loudly in public. However, the culture differences are difficult to assimilate because they lasted for thousands of years.

All in all, U.S. presents a negative attitude towards Chinese immigration, both in government and in public. The Chinese are suffering a hardship with immigration to US. Huge changes have taken place in China from 19th century, not only in the economy but also in science technology. Chinese people hope the view of Chinese could also be changed positively in U.S. Chinese people can also bring many benefits if U.S. open a broader gate for Chinese immigrants. They invest their money in U.S. companies, which help relieve the current economy crisis. They also bring some new ideas of healthy diet and medicine. It’s the time to change the attitude towards Chinese immigrants because they have prepared to adjust themself to the new life in U.S.

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